

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1434

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS 1975-1980

REF: (A) 042348; (B) USNATO 1233; (C) USNATO 1316;
(D) STATE 048627; (E) USNATO 1421

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION PROVIDES ADDITIONAL ALLIED REACTIONS TO U.S. APPROACH TO FORCE PROPOSALS/ FORCE GOALS, ASKS FOR GUIDANCE FOR DRC DISCUSSION OF U.S. APPROACH, AND RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON SEND TEAM FOR MARCH 28 DRC DISCUSSION OF U.S. FORCE PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS. END SUMMARY.

1. SOME DRC, IS, AND IMS REPS HAVE PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED TO MISSION OFFICERS THE VALUE OF THE IMPACT OF U.S. APPROACH TO FORCE PROPOSALS/ FORCE GOALS. WHILE DISPUTING SOME OF U.S. PRIORITIES AND REGARDING TIMING OF U.S. INITIATIVES AS BELATED (INCLUDING ABSENCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRC MEETINGS ON NORWAY, DENMARK, AND LUXEMBOURG), THESE REPS BELIEVE U.S. INITIATIVE HAS FORCED NATO TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THE FORCE GOALS EXERCISE. THEY VIEW THE FRESH LOOK AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

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BENEFICIAL AND BELIEVE IT WILL LEAD TO FORCE GOALS THAT ARE MORE REALISTIC AND BETTER RELATED TO MAJOR PRIORITIES.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED TO EXPRESS

IRRITATION (REPORTED REFTELS (B) AND (C)) THAT U.S. IS ATTEMPTING TO "SUBSTITUTE" ITS PRIORITIES FOR THOSE OF NATO'S MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND IS ASKING THE DRC TO "OVERRIDE" NMA PRIORITIES.

3. AS WE REPORTED REFTEL (E), DRC IS TO DISCUSS HANDLING OF U.S. APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT OF "REASONABLE CHALLENGE" AND SELECTION OF "ESSENTIAL PROPOSALS" ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, MISSION REQUESTS A RESPONSE TO ITS RECOMMENDATION IN PARA. 5 REFTEL (C) PRIOR TO THAT MEETING. MISSION ALSO NEEDS FURTHER RATIONALE FOR U.S. SELECTION OF PAST PERCENTAGES OF GNP EXPENDED ON DEFENSE AS BASES FOR PROJECTING FUTURE "REASONABLE CHALLENGES." AS WASHINGTON'S GUIDANCE FOR BELGIUM (REFTEL (D)) ILLUSTRATES, CARRYING THIS BASIS AND METHODOLOGY TO LOGICAL EXTREME WOULD RESULT IN U.S. POSITION CALLING FOR DECREASES IN SOME COUNTRY'S PLANS.

4. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF U.S. INITIATIVES, DRC IS PROBING INTO SPECIFICS AND DETAILS OF FORCES OF COUNTRY IT IS HANDLING, INCLUDING FORCE ORGANIZATION, CURRENT DEPLOYMENT, PROJECTED DEPLOYMENTS, RECEPTION FACILITIES, FUTURE PLANS FOR ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS, ETC. SUCH QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. FORCES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE POSED BY DRC AT FALL MULTILATERAL EXAMINATIONS OF COUNTRY PLANS. THEY CALL FOR INFORMATION BEYOND THAT AVAILABLE TO USNATO. IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE U.S. INTEREST IN PRESENT REVIEWS, AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ANTICIPATED DRC QUESTIONS, MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON SEND TO NATO IN ADDITION TO GEN LOBDELL, A TEAM OF U.S. EXPERTS, FAMILIAR WITH DETAILED PLANS OF ALL SERVICES, FOR MARCH 28 SESSION.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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